

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 031505Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2259

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONCUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 01440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND: CEAUSESCU'S ASIAN-MIDDLE EAST TOUR

REF: BUCHAREST 1206

1. AS ON PREVIOUS FORAYS TO AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST,
AND LATIN AMERICA, PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU WILL
USE HIS APRIL 3-19 TRIP TO JAPAN, PHILIPPINES, JORDAN
AND TUNISIA TO BOLSTER ROMANIA'S POLITICAL PRESTIGE
AND ECONOMIC POSITION. THE TRIP WILL BE HIS FIRST
MAJOR FOREIGN VENTURE AFTER A LENGTY PERIOD OF
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PREOCCUPATION WITH DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, INCLUDING LAST

YEAR'S ROMANIAN 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLING AND CONSOLIDATION, AND SHARPENED ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES HEIGHTENED BY WORLD CRISIS.

2. TWO-WEEK TRIP MAY ALREADY FALL SOMEWHAT SHORT OF CEAUSESCU'S INITIAL HOPES. INVITATIONS TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND INDONESIA ARRIVED TOO LATE, PERHAPS BY DESIGN, TO INCLUDE AT THIS TIME. OTHER ASIAN STOPS ALSO FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, POSSIBLY OWING TO SE ASIA UNCERTAINTIES; HE MAY ALSO HAVE WISHED TO SAVE OTHER STOPS FOR LATER TRIP TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM. KUWAIT, FROM WHOM WE UNDERSTAND ROMANIA HAS UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT 500 MILLION DOLLAR CREDIT, WAS A LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATION, OWING TO FAISAL'S ASSASSINATION (FONMIN MACOVESCU TOLD AMB THAT ANOTHER STOP IS SOUGHT --WHICH NOW APPEARS TO BE PAKISTAN). JAPAN SO FAR HAS BEEN COY, ACCORDING TO ITS EMBASSY HERE, IN GRANTING CEAUSESCU EITHER THE LARGE ADDITIONAL CREDIT OR JOINT COLEMN POLITICAL DECLARATION HE SEEKS.

3. NONETHELESS, HETEROGENEITY OF COUNTRIES ON SCHEDULE ILLUSTRATE THE MANIFOLD ASPECTS OF ROMANIA'S DRIVE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND SUPPORT ABROAD: JAPAN, ONE OF FEW GREAT INDUSTRIAL POWERS CEAUSESCU HAS NOT YET VISITED AND SOURCE OF TECHNOLOGY AND CREDIT; PHILIPPINES, A FELLOW DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH WHOM AMBASSADORIAL RELATIONS NEWLY ESTABLISHED, AND POTENTIAL MARKET FOR GOODS GOR CANNOT MARKET IN WEST; JORDAN AND TUNISIA, WHERE CEAUSESCU RETURNS HEAD-OF-STATE VISITS TO HUSSEIN (1974) AND BOURGUIBA (1968) AND WILL ASSUME "FRIEND OF ARABS" ROLE WHICH OVER PAST YEAR OR SO HAS GAINED CEAUSESCU EXPANDED MARKETS AND OIL IN REGION.
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